AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Original)** A method of cementing, comprising the steps of: providing a cement composition comprising a hydraulic cement, a set retarder, and a particle-size distribution-adjusting agent; activating the cement composition; placing the cement composition in a desired location; and permitting the cement composition to set therein.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement composition further comprises water, and wherein the water is fresh water, salt water, brine, sea water, or a mixture thereof.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein the water is present in the cement composition in an amount sufficient to form a pumpable slurry.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 3 wherein the water is present in the cement composition in an amount in the range of from about 25% to about 150% by weight of the cement.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the hydraulic cement is a Portland cement, pozzolana cement, gypsum cement, high alumina cement, silica cement, or a high alkalinity cement.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein the step of providing a cement composition comprises providing a densified cement composition.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 6 wherein the step of providing a densified cement composition comprises the step of adding high-density particles to the cement composition.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 6 wherein the step of providing a densified cement composition comprises the step of reducing the amount of water in the cement composition.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 6 wherein the cement composition further comprises a yield stress reducing agent.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the set retarder is phosphonic acid or a phosphonic acid derivative.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10 wherein the phosphonic acid derivative is a sodium salt of phosphonic acid.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the set retarder is present in the cement composition in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the cement.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the step of activating the cement composition comprises adding an activator composition to the cement composition.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 13 wherein the activator composition is added in an amount sufficient to enable the cement composition to achieve a desired compressive strength in a desired thickening time.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 14 wherein the activator composition is added in an amount in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5% by weight of the cement.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 15 wherein the activator composition comprises a mixture of a trialkanolamine and an alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the trialkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of: triethanolamine, tripropanolamine, and triisopropanolamine.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the trialkanolamine is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 50% by weight of the activator composition.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is present in an amount in the range of from about 50% to about 99.9% by weight of the activator composition.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 18 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide.

22. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the activator composition is added to the cement composition in the form of a solution diluted by water.

23. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the activator composition is added to the cement composition while the cement composition is in storage.

24. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the activator composition is added to the cement composition while the cement composition is being placed in the subterranean formation.

25. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in the cement composition in an amount sufficient to adjust the particle-size distribution of the cement composition to a desired range.

26. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement composition comprising the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent has a particle-size distribution that is narrower than that of the cement composition lacking the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent.

27. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in the cement composition in an amount in the range of from about 0.01% to about 4% by weight of the cement.

28. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a compound that affects the particle-size distribution of the cement such that the rheology of the cement composition remains substantially stable for a desired period of time.

29. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a cationic polymer.

30. **(Original)** The method of claim 29 wherein the cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of: cationic polyacrylamides; cationic hydroxyethyl cellulose; poly(dimethyldiallylammonium chloride); and cationic starches.

31. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement composition further comprises a surfactant, a dispersant, a salt, mica, a formation conditioning agent, a fixed-density weighting agent, vitrified shale, fumed silica, bentonite, fly ash, a fluid loss control additive, an expanding additive, a defoamer, a viscosifier, or a mixture thereof.

32. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of permitting the cement composition to remain in a slurry state for at least 24 hours.

33. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of permitting the cement composition to remain in a slurry state for at least two weeks.

34. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of permitting the cement composition to remain in a slurry state for more than two weeks.

35 **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the suspension properties of the cement composition are substantially uniform throughout the cement composition.

36. **(Original)** The method of claim 32 wherein the rheological properties of the cement composition remain substantially constant while the cement composition remains in a slurry state.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9 wherein the yield stress reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of[[±]] a sulfonated melamine formaldehyde condensate; a sulfonated napthalene condensate; and a sulfite adduct of an acetone formaldehyde condensate.

38. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement composition has a density in the range of from about 4 pounds per gallon to about 25 pounds per gallon.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement composition further comprises water, and wherein the water is present in the cement composition in an amount in the range of from about 25% to about 150% by weight of the cement; wherein the set retarder is a phosphonic acid or phosphonic acid derivative; wherein the step of ~~selectively~~ activating the cement composition comprises adding an activator composition to the cement composition; wherein the activator composition comprises a mixture of triethanolamine and an alkali metal hydroxide; wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in the cement composition in an amount in the range of from about 0.01 % to about 4 % by weight of the cement; wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a cationic polymer.

40. **(Withdrawn)** A method of drilling in a subterranean formation comprising the step of drilling a well bore in a subterranean formation using a drilling fluid comprising a cement, a set retarder, and a particle-size distribution-adjusting agent.

41. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40 further comprising the step of placing a casing string within the well bore.

42. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40 further comprising the step of mixing an activator composition with the drilling fluid.

43. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40 further comprising the step of permitting the drilling fluid to set behind the casing string.

44. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40 wherein the drilling fluid further comprises water, and wherein the water is fresh water, salt water, brine, sea water, or a mixture thereof.

45. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 44 wherein the water is present in the drilling fluid in an amount in the range of from about 25% to about 150% by weight of the cement.

46. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40 wherein the hydraulic cement is a Portland cement, pozzolana cement, gypsum cement, high alumina cement, silica cement, or a high-alkalinity cement.

47. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40 wherein the drilling fluid further comprises a yield stress reducing agent.

48. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40 wherein the set retarder is phosphonic acid or a phosphonic acid derivative.

49. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 48 wherein the phosphonic acid derivative is a sodium salt of phosphonic acid.

50. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40 wherein the set retarder is present in the drilling fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the cement.

51. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 42 wherein the activator composition is added in an amount sufficient to enable the drilling fluid to achieve a desired compressive strength in a desired thickening time.

52. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 51 wherein the activator composition is added in an amount in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5% by weight of the cement.

53. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 52 wherein the activator composition comprises a mixture of a trialkanolamine and an alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

54. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 53 wherein the trialkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of: triethanolamine, tripropanolamine, and triisopropanolamine.

55. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 53 wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

56. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 53 wherein the trialkanolamine is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 50% by weight of the activator composition.

57. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 53 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is present in an amount in the range of from about 50% to about 99.9% by weight of the activator composition.

58. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 55 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide.

59. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in the drilling fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.01 % to about 4 % by weight of the cement.

60. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a cationic polymer.

61. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 60 wherein the cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of: cationic polyacrylamides; cationic hydroxyethyl cellulose; poly(dimethyldiallylammonium chloride); and cationic starches.

62. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 47 wherein the yield stress reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of: a sulfonated melamine formaldehyde condensate; a sulfonated napthalene condensate; and a sulfite adduct of an acetone formaldehyde condensate.

63. **(Withdrawn)** A method of using a fluid in a subterranean formation comprising the step of: placing a displacement fluid comprising a cement, a set retarder, a particle-size distribution-adjusting agent, and an activator composition in a well bore in a subterranean formation so as to displace a second fluid therefrom.

64. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 wherein the second fluid is a drilling fluid.

65. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of placing a casing string within the well bore.

66. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of placing a cement composition within the well bore so as to displace at least a portion of the displacement fluid therefrom.

67. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of permitting the cement composition to set in the well bore.

68. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of permitting any undisplaced displacement fluid to set in the well bore.

69. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 wherein the displacement fluid further comprises water, and wherein the water is fresh water, salt water, brine, sea water, or a mixture thereof.

70. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 69 wherein the water is present in the displacement fluid in an amount in the range of from about 25% to about 150% by weight of the cement.

71. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 wherein the hydraulic cement is a Portland cement, pozzolana cement, gypsum cement, high alumina cement, silica cement, or a high alkalinity cement.

72. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 wherein the displacement fluid further comprises a yield stress reducing agent.

73. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 wherein the set retarder is phosphonic acid or a phosphonic acid derivative.

74. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 73 wherein the phosphonic acid derivative is a sodium salt of phosphonic acid.

75. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 wherein the set retarder is present in the displacement fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the cement.

76. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 wherein the activator composition is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5% by weight of the cement.

77. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 wherein the activator composition comprises a mixture of a trialkanolamine and an alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

78. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 77 wherein the trialkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of: triethanolamine, tripropanolamine, and triisopropanolamine.

79. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 77 wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

80. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 77 wherein the trialkanolamine is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 50% by weight of the activator composition.

81. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 77 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is present in an amount in the range of from about 50% to about 99.9% by weight of the activator composition.

82. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 79 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide.

83. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in the displacement fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.01 % to about 4 % by weight of the cement.

84. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 63 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a cationic polymer.

85. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 84 wherein the cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of: cationic polyacrylamides; cationic hydroxyethyl cellulose; poly(dimethyldiallylammonium chloride); and cationic starches.

86. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 72 wherein the yield stress reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of: a sulfonated melamine formaldehyde condensate; a sulfonated napthalene condensate; and a sulfite adduct of an acetone formaldehyde condensate.

87. **(Original)** A settable fluid comprising a hydraulic cement, a set retarder, and a particle-size distribution-adjusting agent.

88. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 further comprising water, wherein the water comprises fresh water, salt water, brine, seawater, or a mixture thereof.

89. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 88 wherein the water is present in an amount sufficient to form a pumpable slurry.

90. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 89 wherein the water is present in an amount in the range of from about 25% to about 150% by weight of the cement.

91. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 wherein the hydraulic cement is a Portland cement, pozzolana cement, gypsum cement, high alumina cement, silica cement, or a high alkalinity cement.

92. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 further comprising a yield stress reducing agent.

93. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 92 wherein the yield stress reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of: a sulfonated melamine formaldehyde condensate, and a sulfite adduct of an acetone formaldehyde condensate.

94. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 wherein the set retarder is phosphonic acid or a phosphonic acid derivative.

95. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 94 wherein the phosphonic acid derivative is a sodium salt of phosphonic acid.

96. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 wherein the set retarder is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the cement.

97. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 further comprising an activator composition.

98. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 97 wherein the activator composition is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the cement.

99. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 97 wherein the activator composition comprises a mixture of a trialkanolamine and an alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

100. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 99 wherein the trialkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of: triethanolamine, tripropanolamine, and triisopropanolamine.

101. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 99 wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

102. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 101 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide.

103. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 99 wherein the trialkanolamine is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 50% by weight of the activator composition.

104. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 99 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is present in an amount in the range of from about 50% to about 99.9% by weight of the activator composition.

105. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in an amount sufficient to adjust the particle-size distribution of the settable fluid to a desired range.

106. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 105 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.01 % to about 4 % by weight of the cement.

107. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a compound that affects the particle size distribution of the settable fluid such that the rheology of the settable fluid remains substantially stable for a desired period of time.

108. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a cationic polymer.

109. **(Currently Amended)** The settable fluid of claim 108 wherein the cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of[[,]] cationic polyacrylamides; cationic hydroxyethyl cellulose; poly(dimethyldiallylammonium chloride); and cationic starches.

110. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 further comprising a surfactant, a dispersant, a salt, mica, a formation conditioning agent, a fixed-density weighting agent, vitrified shale, fumed silica, bentonite, fly ash, a fluid loss control additive, an expanding additive, a defoamer, a viscosifier, or a mixture thereof.

111. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 wherein the suspension properties of the settable fluid are substantially uniform throughout the settable fluid.

112. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 having a density in the range of from about 4 pounds per gallon to about 25 pounds per gallon.

113. **(Original)** The settable fluid of claim 87 further comprising water, wherein the water is present in an amount in the range of from about 25% to about 150% by weight of the cement; wherein the set retarder is a phosphonic acid or phosphonic acid derivative; wherein the settable fluid further comprises an activator composition; wherein the activator composition comprises a mixture of triethanolamine and an alkali metal hydroxide; wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in the settable fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.01% to about 4% by weight of the cement; wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a cationic polymer.

114. **(Withdrawn)** An activator composition for activating a settable fluid comprising a mixture of a trialkanolamine and an alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

115. **(Withdrawn)** The activator composition of claim 114 wherein the trialkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of: triethanolamine, tripropanolamine, and triisopropanolamine.

116. **(Withdrawn)** The activator composition of claim 114 wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide is selected from the group consisting of: sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

117. **(Withdrawn)** The activator composition of claim 114 wherein the trialkanolamine is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 50% by weight.

118. **(Withdrawn)** The activator composition of claim 114 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is present in an amount in the range of from about 50% to about 99.9% by weight.

119. **(Withdrawn)** The activator composition of claim 116 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide.

120. **(Withdrawn)** A particle-size distribution-adjusting agent for adjusting the particle size distribution of a settable fluid to a desired range, the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent comprising a cationic polymer.

121. **(Withdrawn)** The particle-size distribution-adjusting agent of claim 120 wherein the cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of: cationic polyacrylamides; cationic hydroxyethyl cellulose; poly(dimethyldiallylammonium chloride); and cationic starches.

122. **(Withdrawn)** The particle-size distribution-adjusting agent of claim 120 wherein the cationic polymer is a cationic starch.